REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been examined. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I.   Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because reference numerals 14, 22Ba and 22Ca are shown in Fig. 6, but not disclosed in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification to recite the above reference numerals, and submits that such amendments overcome the drawing objection.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct a minor informality, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the specification.

II.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,659,350 to Hendricks et al. ("Hendricks '350").

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendricks, cited by the Applicant.

A.   Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites a channel contrastive table for comparing a management number that is allocated to each analog program and a channel display number of an analog program that is commonly used in the area to which each terminal belongs.

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In a very broad manner, the Examiner maintains that the claimed channel contrastive

table is met by the Hendricks '350 management functions, which include, cable head end

management, broadcast program management, internal program storage, etc (pg. 3 of the Office

Action). However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Each management

function cited by the Examiner recites multiple independent activities (i.e. profiling viewers,

tracking source tapes), none of which discloses the claimed channel contrastive table for

comparing a management number allocated to an analog program and a channel display number

(col. 23, lines 59-67; col. 24, lines 12-15 and 37-39; col. 25, lines 20-24; col. 26, lines 30-32; col.

27, lines 14-16; col. 28, lines 12-37).

Further, the Examiner maintains that the claimed management number is taught by the

use of service ID's for virtual or non-existent channels, as disclosed in col. 28, lines 12-37 of

Hendricks '350.

Applicant submits that the disclosed concept and method of mapping a "virtual" or

"nonexistent" channel into a local headend channel fails to teach or disclose the use of the

claimed management numbers and channel display numbers in a channel contrastive table.

The Examiner further maintains that Hendricks '350 discloses terminals (i.e. set top

terminal 220) for storing an area code and channel contrasting table (pg. 3 of Office Action; col.

10, lines 57-67; col. 17, lines 50-67; col. 29, lines 42-45 of Hendricks '350). However, as stated

previously, Hendricks '350 fails to teach or disclose a channel contrastive table. Therefore,

Hendricks '350 likewise fails to teach or suggest that set top terminal 220 stores the claimed

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channel contrastive table. Thus, Applicant submits that set top terminal 220 fails to disclose the

claimed terminals.

Accordingly, since Hendricks '350 fails to teach or disclose each and every feature

recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable over the cited reference.

B.   Claim 2

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable

at least by virtue of its dependency.

C.   Claim 5

Since claim 5 contains features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 1,

Applicant submits that such claim is patentable for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

III.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hendricks, to U.S. Patent No. 5,990,927 to

Hendricks et al. ("Hendricks '927").

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Hendricks '350, cited by the Applicant, in view of Hendricks '927, cited by the Examiner.

However, since claims 3 and 4 are dependent upon claim 1, and Hendricks '927 fails to cure the

deficient teachings of Hendricks '350, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least

by virtue of their dependency.
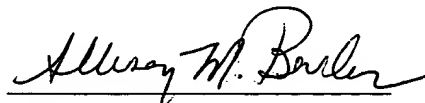
IV.   Newly added claims

Applicant has added claims 6 and 7 to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

V.   Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: June 13, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 12, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

In Fig. 6, a digital picture signal, an analog picture signal, and the data supplied from the digital head end 10 are distributed to a program tuner 20 and a data tuner 21 <u>via a signal 14</u>.

Page 12, the fourth full paragraph is amended as follows:

In the analog picture signal processing circuit 22A, an analog picture IF signal of the NTSC system outputted from the program tuner 20 is demodulated by an NTSC demodulator, and when the analog picture signal transmitted from the analog head end [11]<u>1A or 1B</u> is scrambled, this scrambled analog picture signal is descrambled by way of an analog descramble circuit, and thereafter the descrambled analog picture signal is entered into a CPU/Decoder 25 provided at a post stage.

Page 13, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

Then, in such a case that the digital picture signal which is transmitted from the digital head end 10 is scrambled, this scrambled digital picture signal is descrambled by a digital descramble circuit. Thereafter, a transport stream (TS) of MPEG-2 is demultiplexed by a TS-demultiplexer <u>22Ba</u>, and the demultiplexed transport stream is entered to the CPU/Decoder 25 provided at the post stage.

Page 14, the first paragraph is amended as follows:

Then, a TS-demultiplexer 22Ca demultiplexes various sorts of data such as EPG data,

which is multiplexed on the transport stream (TS) in accordance with the MPEG-2 standard. The

demultiplexed data is entered to the CPU/Decoder 25 provided at the post stage.

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A CATV conditional access system comprising:

a plurality of analog head ends for distributing [a] picture [signal]<u>signals</u> of [an] analog

[program]<u>programs</u> and [a] picture [signal]<u>signals</u> of [a] transmitted digital [program]<u>programs</u>

to [a terminal belonging to each]<u>terminals provided in a plurality</u> of areas; and

a digital head end for transmitting [a]<u>the</u> picture [signal]<u>signals</u> of [a]<u>the</u> digital

[program]<u>programs</u> to the plurality of analog head ends,

wherein said digital head end transmits to the terminals within the areas, data containing

both an area code used to recognize the [own] area [belonging to each area]<u>to which each</u>

<u>terminal belongs</u>, and a channel contrastive table for comparing a management number<u> that is</u>

<u>allocated to each analog program</u> and a channel display number of an analog program [every

area, said management number being given to each of the analog program and being commonly

used for the respective areas]<u>that is commonly used in the area to which each terminal belongs</u>,

and

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each of said terminals stores thereinto the area code and the channel contrastive table, and

retrieves the corresponding management [number]numbers from the channel contrastive table by

comparing the channel display [number]numbers of the analog [program]programs set [every]for

each area and the [channel contrastive table based upon the] area code, and then displays the

channel display number of the analog program of the retrieved management number.

2. (Once Amended) The CATV conditional access system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein both the data indicative of the area code and the data indicative of the channel

contrastive table are transmitted from said digital head end to the terminals of the respective

areas respectively via [either] a channel used to transmit the picture signal [or another data

transmission channel which is separately provided with the channel for transmitting the picture

signal].

3. (Once Amended) The CATV conditional access system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said digital head end transmits data about an analog channel transmission frequency

contrastive table to the terminals within the plurality of areas, said analog channel transmission

frequency contrastive table comparing the management number with a transmission frequency of

an analog program within each of the areas, and

each of the terminals stores thereinto the analog channel transmission contrastive table[;],

such that when a channel display number of an analog program is designated, said each terminal

retrieves a management number corresponding to the designated channel display number from

the channel contrastive table based upon the area code[;], and said each terminal retrieves a

transmission frequency of an analog program corresponding to the retrieved management

number from the analog channel transmission frequency contrastive table so as to be tuned to the

retrieved transmission frequency.

4. (Once Amended) The CATV conditional access system as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the data indicative of the analog channel transmission frequency contrastive table are

transmitted from said digital head end to the terminals of the respective areas respectively via

[either] a channel used to transmit the picture signal [or another data transmission channel which

is separately provided with the channel for transmitting the picture signal].

5. (Once Amended) A CATV conditional access method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of analog head ends for distributing [a] picture [signal]signals of

[an] analog [program]programs and [a] picture [signal]signals of [a] transmitted digital

[program]programs to [a terminal belonging to each]terminals provided in a plurality of areas;

providing a digital head end for transmitting [a]the picture [signal]signals of [a] digital

[program]programs to the plurality of analog head ends;

transmitting to the terminals within the areas, data containing both an area code used to

recognize the [own area belonging to each area]area to which the area belongs, and a channel

contrastive table for comparing a management number that is allocated to each analog program

and a channel display number of an analog program [every area, said management number being

given to each of the analog program and being commonly used for the respective areas]that is

commonly used in the area;

storing in each of said terminals the area code and the channel contrastive table;

retrieving the corresponding management [number] numbers from the channel

contrastive table by comparing the channel display [number]numbers of the analog

[program]programs set [every]for each area and the [channel contrastive table based upon the]

area code; and

displaying the channel display number of the analog program of the retrieved

management number.

Claims 6 and 7 are added as new claims.